

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10696 230918Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 230844Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5911
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T BEIRUT 10696

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE
SUBJECT: TAQLA'S FEARS RE ISRAELI SABOTAGE AGAINST LEBANON

1. DURING COURSE OF GENERAL CONVERSATION AUGUST 22 WITH FONMIN TAQLA, HE SAID HE WISHED ME TO DO HIM A FAVOR BY COMMENTING ON REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED "FROM ABROAD" THAT GOI WAS PLANNING ACTS AGAINST LEBANESE INSTALLATIONS OR PERSONALITIES. THESE ACTS WOULD BE DESIGNED TO INITIATE RENEWED CIVIL STRIFE IN LEBANON AND/OR DAMAGE LEBANESE STATE (BLOWING UP PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE DURING CABINET MEETING, ETC.).

2. I TOLD TAQLA THAT I HAD HEARD SUCH REPORTS DURING ROUNDS 1, 2, AND 3, I.E., THAT ISRAELI SABOTAGE TEAMS WERE CONTRIBUTING TO KEEP THE FIGHTING GOING. I HAD ALSO HEARD REPORTS WHICH ALLUDED TO POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTS. THESE REPORTS NEVER MADE SENSE TO ME AND CONFLICTED WITH DEFINITE IMPRESSIONS I HAD THAT GOI DESIRED A STRONG LEBANON, HOPEFULLY TO CONTROL PLO HERE. WHILE GOI WOULD CONTINUE TO ACT AGAINST PLO TARGETS IN LEBANON, I WAS RELATIVELY CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACT AGAINST PURELY LEBANESE TARGETS.

3. TAQLA SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE. HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE GOI ATTACKING PLO INSTALLATIONS BUT HE FEARED THEIR ATTACKING THE GOL IN THAT

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ONLY THE LEFT OR RADICALS WOULD GAIN. I SAID I THOUGH

THIS WAS PRECISELY THE GOI'S THINKING AND THIS WAS WHY I
WAS CONVINCED THERE WAS NO DANGER OF THE GOI DELIBERATELY
HITTING LEBANESE TARGETS.

4. TRUST MY VIEWS COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF EMBASSY TEL
AVIV AND THE DEPARTMENT.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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